

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are currently pending. Claims 15-17 have been allowed. Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 9, 11, 12 and 18 have been amended.

Claims 1-11 and 25-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,155,941 issued to Takahashi et al. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection for the following reasons.

First, the Takahashi et al. reference fails to disclose a grinding head which reciprocates. The grinding head 146 shown in Figs. 35-37 (the ninth embodiment of Takahashi et al.) is disclosed as "a rotary treatment member". See column 15, lines 61-63 of Takahashi et al. . There is no disclosure, teaching or suggestion in Takahashi et al. of a reciprocating grinding head.

Furthermore, as the Examiner acknowledged in his statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter (paragraph 6 of the Office Action), the limitation of a reciprocating piston at least partially located in the extension member as claimed in claim 15 is not anticipated nor made obvious by the prior art of record. Therefore, claims 1-26, as amended, are allowable.

Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 6, 9, 12 and 18 to require a reciprocating piston at least partially located in the extension member. This feature is not disclosed, taught or suggested in the prior art of record.

Claims 12-14 and 18-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi et al. For the reasons stated above these rejections have been overcome.


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Amdt. dated September 30, 2004
Reply to Office Action of September 16, 2004

In view of the foregoing remarks given herein, applicant respectfully believes this case is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests allowance of the claims. If the Examiner believes any detailed language of the claims requires further discussion, the Examiner is respectfully asked to telephone the undersigned attorney so that the matter may be promptly resolved. The Examiner's prompt attention to this matter is appreciated.

Applicant is of the opinion that no additional fees are due. If any charges or credits are necessary to complete this communication, please apply them to deposit account no. 23-3000.

Respectfully submitted,

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